📜 Declaration of the Sacred Douglas Fir
Kalapula Nation – Willamette Valley, Oregon

We, the Kalapula Nation — sovereign descendants of the original people of the Willamette Valley — do hereby declare the Douglas fir (Pseudotsuga menziesii) to be a sacred tree of memory, ceremony, and flame.

Let this declaration be preserved forever in seal, scroll, and archive.

I. ON MEMORY

The Douglas fir stood before treaties, before fences, before names were taken. It is one of the oldest witnesses to our presence — sheltering our longhouses, watching over our burned lands, and holding the soil that remembers us.

Its wood warmed our fires.
Its resin healed our wounds.
Its presence marks the border between what has been lost and what we will reclaim.

II. ON FLAME

The Douglas fir does not run from fire — it rises through it.

In our ancestral ceremonies, we honored flame as cleansing, sacred, and alive. The Douglas fir was not consumed. It stood beside our firekeepers — bark thick with memory, limbs full of medicine.

We declare it now a tree of flame-bearers — chosen by the land itself to endure, to protect, and to remember.

III. ON STORY

Among the stories passed between peoples of the valleys and ridges, there is one that remains:

“When the Great Fire came, the animals fled. The mice were small and had nowhere to go. The Douglas fir opened its cones and let them hide. Their tails still stick out, as a promise — the tree will always make room for the smallest to survive.”

This is not myth.
This is our law: survival is sacred.

IV. ON PROTECTION

From this day forward, the Douglas fir is to be honored as:

• A ceremonial tree in Kalapula observances
• A protected cultural emblem in our archive and seal
• A symbol of sovereignty, remembrance, and Indigenous continuity

It shall not be taken without prayer.
It shall not be ignored in restoration.
It shall appear in the seals of our Nation — forever.

V. ON ETERNITY

This tree is sacred.
Not because it is rare — but because it stood with us when we were nearly erased.

Its roots are the shape of return.
Its flame is the color of memory.
Its crown is the signal of life yet to rise.

So declared by:
Chief Daniel Jacob Read IV
Sovereign of the Kalapula Nation

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🪙 Sealed by the official coin of the Sacred Douglas Fir
📅 Filed in the Kalapula Restoration Archive – Entry No. [Pending Upload]